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- (21) Application No. 17364/74 (22) Filed 19 April 1974
 (23) Complete Specification filed 8 April 1975
 (44) Complete Specification published 17 Nov. 1976
 (51) INT CL² B26B 21/54//21/22
 (52) Index at acceptance
 B4B 33D1 34F
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(54) SHAVING UNITS

(71) We, THE GILLETTE COMPANY, a corporation organised and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America, of Prudential Tower Building, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to shaving units for safety razors. The term shaving units is used herein in its now generally accepted sense of a permanent assembly comprising one or more single edged blade members, a guard member presenting a guard surface which in use engages the skin of the user ahead of the blade edge or edges and a cap member, the blade members being sandwiched between the guard and cap members.

Such a unit is adapted to be releasably mounted on a razor handle, and is discarded as a unit when the cutting edge or edges become dulled.

Shaving units in current use have cap and guard members formed of synthetic plastics material, the cap and guard being formed separately and permanently secured together in assembly by heat sealing or cold deformation of an interengaging portion.

Because of the disposable nature of these units they must, of course, be cheap to manufacture and with this requirement in mind, the present invention provides a shaving unit comprising a one piece metal component shaped to provide a guard portion and a cap portion, the latter defining with an adjacent part of the guard portion a channel to receive a blade unit, permanently secured to the component.

The blade unit may comprise a single edged, single blade member, but preferably comprises a pair of blade members presenting spaced, parallel cutting edges arranged for operation in tandem in use of the shaving unit.

One form of shaving unit in accordance with the invention will now be described in

detail, by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a plan view of the unit;

Figure 2 is a section of the unit, and

Figure 3 is a section of a modified blade unit.

The shaving unit shown in Figures 1 and 2 comprises an integral cap and guard member in the form of a metal pressing 1 shaped to define a guard portion 2 and a cap portion 3, the latter defining with an adjacent, platform part of the guard portion a channel to receive a blade unit 4. At its forward edge, the guard portion presents a guard surface 5 for engagement, in use, with the skin of the user ahead of the cutting edges of the blade unit 4. At its ends, the guard surface has up-standing abutments in the form of location lugs 6 which are engaged by the leading cutting edge of the blade unit to locate the latter relative to the guard and to provide protection to the user from the corners of the blade.

Beyond the guard surface 5, the guard portion extends downwardly and then rearwardly to form a hook-like locating portion 7, which co-operates with a tab 8, struck downwardly out of the platform part of the guard portion to define a channel by which the unit may be releasably mounted on a razor handle.

The cap portion 3 slopes downwardly and forwardly towards its free forward edge which in this embodiment is spaced from the blade by a small clearance (not shown), the function of the cap edge being solely to provide blade exposure control. However, it will be understood that with modified construction methods the cap could be made to contact the blades and to clamp them permanently in position.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 2, the blade unit comprises upper and lower blades 9 and 10 having a separate spacer 11 between them. The variant illustrated in Figure 3 employs two thicker blades 9 and 10 directly contacting each other. Either of these blade units has sufficient rigidity that it does not need to be clamped by the cap and satisfactory stability of the edge during shaving is ob-

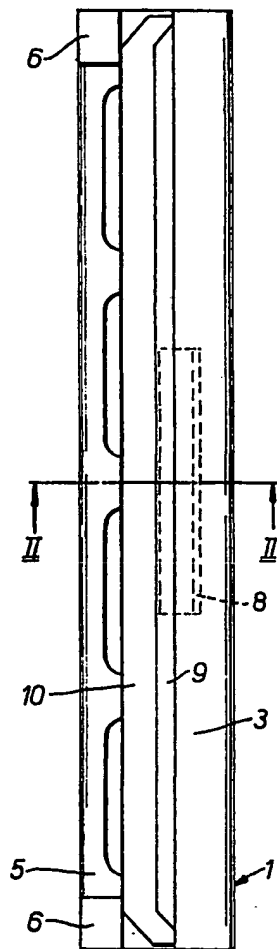


FIG. 1.

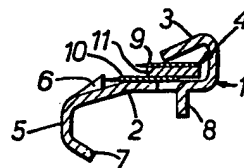


FIG. 2.

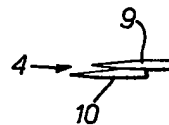


FIG. 3.